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Howard Zaretsky
Date March 31, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 12419.0003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Eyal Lichtman et al.

Serial No.: 09/781,461

Art Unit: 2633

Confirmation No.: 9606

Filed: February 12, 2001

Examiner: Dalzid E. Singh

For: OPTICAL NETWORK TERMINATOR

RESPONSE TO ADVISORY ACTION MAILED FEBRUARY 22, 2006

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Advisory Action mailed February 22, 2006, Applicant submits the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims:

1-52. (cancelled)

53. (previously amended) A wave division multiplexed (WDM) optical ring network, comprising:

- a plurality of nodes coupled to form an optical ring, wherein a portion of said nodes employs one or more optical amplifiers that add unwanted noise to an optical signal, said optical signal including in-use channels and unused channels whereby said unused channels potentially circulate said accumulated noise infinitely around said optical ring;

- an optical network terminator for removing said noise accumulation from said optical signal, wherein said optical network terminator comprises:

- an optical demultiplexer operative to demultiplex said WDM optical signal into a plurality of optical channels having different wavelengths including in-use channels and unused channels;

- means for attenuating said unused channels thereby preventing the infinite circulation of noise accumulation around said optical ring;

- a plurality of monitors, each monitor coupled in-line to an optical channel, said monitor operative to measure the optical power of a respective channel in response thereto, determine whether a channel is in-use or unused; and

- an optical multiplexer optically coupled to the output of said plurality of monitors, said optical multiplexer operative to multiplex said optical channels to generate an output optical signal therefrom with noise accumulation removed.

54. (original) The network according to claim 53, wherein said optical demultiplexer is operative to generate eight channels corresponding to eight different wavelengths.

55. (previously amended) The network according to claim 53, wherein said optical multiplexer is operative to multiplex eight channels corresponding to eight different wavelengths.

56. (original) The network according to claim 53, wherein said optical ring terminator is adapted to be transparent to the bit-rate of each individual optical channel.

57. (original) The network according to claim 53, wherein said optical ring terminator is adapted to be transparent to the protocol of each individual optical channel.

58. (original) The network according to claim 53, wherein said optical ring terminator is adapted to provide remote enabling/disabling of individual optical channels.

59. (original) The network according to claim 53, wherein said optical ring terminator is adapted to enable the gain equalization of said plurality of optical channels.

60. (original) The network according to claim 53, wherein said optical ring terminator is adapted to enable in-line monitoring of power level of said plurality of optical channels.

61-65. (canceled)

REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 11-17, 21, 24-49, 53-60, 63-64 are pending in this case. Claims 53-60 have been allowed. Claims 1-52, 61-65 have been canceled without prejudice.

Response to Advisory Action

In an Advisory Action dated February 22, 2006, the Examiner indicated that the proposed amendments filed in a the Response of January 18, 2006 would not be entered because they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or a new search. To expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicant has canceled claims 1-52, 61-65 in light of the allowance of claims 53-60. Applicant thus requests issuance of this patent application.

A petition for a 3-month extension of time is being filed together with this Response.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 53-60 now in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

In light of the Amendments and the arguments set forth above, Applicant earnestly believes that they are entitled to a letters patent, and respectively solicit the Examiner to expedite prosecution of this patent applications to issuance. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,
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